

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully submit this Preliminary Amendment for entry and consideration in the above-identified case.

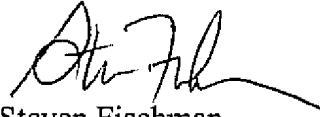
In this Preliminary Amendment, applicants have canceled Claims 1–30 without prejudice, and submit a new sole independent Claim 31. New Claim 31 includes subject matter limitations as found in canceled Claims 1, 3-4. Moreover, the new Claim 31 has been amended to set forth further limitations directed to the data network object and the maintenance of state information concerning the communications capability provided. Respectfully, no new matter is being added as full support can be found in the specification, for example, in paragraph [0001] detailing object persistence, and paragraph [0046] of the originally filed specification that details the state information maintained at the data network object and, particularly, the claimed use of a counter device that counts successful calls completed between the first and second parties as afforded by the communications data network object coupon or token.

The submission of new Claim 31 and claim cancellations are only for facilitating prosecution of this application and applicants are not conceding in this application that those canceled claims are not patentable. Applicants respectfully reserve the right to pursue these and other claims in one or more continuations and/or divisional patent applications.

Applicants respectfully submit that they will follow up with the Examiner, by way of a teleconference, to discuss the merits of this new claim submission calculated to place the application in condition of allowance. Likewise, should the Examiner believe a telephone

conference might expedite prosecution of this case, it is respectfully requested that he call applicant's attorney at (516) 742-4343.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Fischman", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Steven Fischman
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